



Montgomery County Council

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COUNCILMEMBERS SILVERMAN, DENIS INTRODUCE ZONING BILL TO ALLOW CONTINUATION OF SUMMER CAMPS AT COUNTY PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Popular summer camp programs could continue to be held at private schools around the County under a zoning amendment introduced today by Council President Steve Silverman and Councilmember Howard Denis.

Under the amendment, private educational institutions could request a "special exception" from zoning regulations from the Board of Appeals for programs that serve individuals other than students enrolled at the schools. Such programs include tutoring and college preparatory courses, art education, artistic performances, indoor and outdoor recreation programs, and summer day camps.

"This zoning amendment would help us to keep doing what we're already doing – opening up community facilities to all kids in the community," said Council President Silverman. "These schools are a tremendous resource. Their programs are popular and valuable. And, through our special exception process, we are safeguarding neighborhoods by making sure these facilities would not cause too much unnecessary traffic, noise, or lighting problems for surrounding neighborhoods."

The provisions of this bill would allow current programs to continue until September 1, 2003, after which time the institution would have to obtain a special exception.

"This is a win-win situation if ever I saw one," said Councilmember Denis. "Private schools that meet the regulations could continue to carry on with their programs – and our children and grandchildren will have available a wide array of summer activities to enrich them in body, mind, and spirit."

"This sets up a process where neighborhoods are protected and programs that meet the standards can continue."

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